

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 IO-14 DRC-01

SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-07 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /111 W

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R 220820Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2117

UNCLAS MANILA 3435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, RP

SUBJ: CIVAIR: GOP ANNOUNCES SUBSIDIZED HOMECOMING FARE

REF: A) MANILA 2003; B) MANILA 2748

1. AS FORESHADOWED IN REFTELS, GP HAS ANNOUNCED
SUBSIDIZED HOMECOMING ("BALIKBAYAN") FARE PROGRAM FOR
TRAVEL EXCLUSIVELY ON PHILIPPINE AIRLINES. FOLLOWING
IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM ANNOUNCEMENT AS
CARRIED IN MANILA PAPERS MARCH 22:

QUOTE AIR FARES STILL REDUCED UNDER BALIKBAYAN II

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY NEW
AIRLINE FARE FOR FILIPINOS IN THE UNITED STATES WISHING
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BALIKBAYAN II.

SECRETARY OF TOURISM JOSE D. ASPIRAS EMPHASIZED
THAT THE REDUCED ROUND TRIP FARES, ORDERED BY PRESIDENT
MARCOS UNDER LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 163, WERE GOOD
ONLY ON PHILIPPINE AIRLINES PLANES. PAL SERVES ONLY
HONOLULU, HAWAII AND SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA IN THE
UNITED STATES.

THE NET ROUND TRIP FARE IS \$500 SAN FRANCISCO-MANILA-
SAN FRANCISCO AND \$410 HONOLULU-MANILA-HONOLULU,
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INDIVIDUAL, ECONOMY CLASS AND FOR GROUPS OF 70 PERSONS.

BALIKBAYAN PARTICIPANTS WERE ADVISED TO REPORT TO THE NEAREST PHILIPPINE CONSULATES TO SIGN CREDIT VOUCHERS WHICH STATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM WILL SUBSIDIZE THE FARES. THE SUBSIDIES ARE \$56.20 FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND \$47.40 FOR HONOLULU.

THE DISCOUNTS FOR THE BALIKBAYAN FARES ARE 53.5 PERCENT LESS THAN THE REGULAR FARES. THE PRESIDENT HAD ORDERED PAL TO OFFER AT LEAST 50 PERCENT DISCOUNTS.

UNDER LOI NO. 163, THE BALIKBAYAN FARES APPLY TO ALL OVERSEAS FILIPINOS AND/OR THEIR FAMILIES AND DESCENDANTS WHO ARE NOW RESIDENTS OR CITIZENS OF OTHER LANDS. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: SAHLEN QUERED BY EMBASSY NEITHER PHILIPINOS NOR PAL OFFICIALS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH BOTH CLAIMED THEY HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT BEFORE READING IN NEWSPAPERS. ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES GROUP 70 AFFINITY FARE OF \$556.20 IS BASIS FOR SUBSIDY PAYMENT. ACCORDING TO NWA MANAGER, \$540 PLUS 3 PERCENT CURRENCY SURCHARGE IS CURRENT GA-70 FARE (NOT \$567 REPORTED STATE 232727 11/27/73) FOR PASSAGE ORIGINATING IN U.S. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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